

[24 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Security lapse at Srinagar Airport

4119. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the country's airport including the airport at Srinagar, gross security lapses were noticed recently;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into the failure of the concerned authorities to make safety and security arrangements at the airports has been made by Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government to remove the deficiencies in the security arrangement at the country's airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No serious security lapses have been observed during the last one year. Individual cases of lapses, if any, are dealt with strictly and disciplinary action is taken against the officials found guilty.

(d) Government has taken a number of steps for strengthening security arrangements at airports. These include deployment of CISF in a phased manner in all operational airports; introduction of ladder-point frisking at airports; deployment of Sky Marshals on selected routes on random basis; and arrangements for imparting comprehensive training to security staff and cockpit/cabin crew.

Diversification in exports from India

4120. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored fresh possibilities of further diversifying India's export basket to the European Union;

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken in this regard;

(c) the specific traditional items, and their value, exported to the EU during the last three years; and

(d) the important mutual decisions taken and their likely impact on our exports to EU during the recent visit to India of the EU Commissioner for External Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India constantly interacts with the European Union at different levels to explore new possibilities and realize the potential of growth in trade with EU. Bilateral Working Groups have been established in sectors having export potential such as agri/marine products, textiles and steel etc. Following the India-EU Summit held in Lisbon in June, 2000, a separate bilateral Working Group on Information and Communications Technology has also been set up. Several sector specific meetings between the Indian and EU entrepreneurs focussing on different potential areas have been organized through EOI, Brussels in Europe. These initiatives, alongwith other initiatives as announced in the Exim Policy 2001, would facilitate diversification of India's export basket to the European Union countries.

(c) India's exports of specific traditional items to EU during the last three years:—

(in US \$ million)

Items of India's exports to EU	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Apr-Dec, 2000)
1	2	3	4
RMG cotton incl. Accessories	1109.23	1222.13	863.42
Gems and jewellery	1148.76	1198.69	851.46
Cotton YFM	782.91	796.86	603.89
Manmade YFM	224.80	252.55	217.30

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1	2	3	4
RMG manmade fibre	348.97	242.99	213.19
Leather goods	248.34	229.01	194.26
Handicrafts	234.40	246.96	176.82
Marine Products	145.80	194.79	160.61
Footwear of Leather	190.14	197.51	155.59
Leather footwear components	200.74	187.33	150.60

(d) EC Commissioner for External Relations visited India between 25th and 29th January, 2001 for launching of the India-EU Round Table and having related dialogue. Specific trade related issues were not discussed during his visit. However, during the India-EU Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 6.2.2001, both sides considered various trade related matters.

Export of Semi-processed Leather Products

4121. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that free export of semi-processed hides and skin has been permitted now;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what is the share of semi-processed products in the total leather export in the country; and
- (d) the details of problems in exporting finished products only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Export of semi-processed hides and skins was permitted to harmonise our trade policy with norms of international trade. However export duty ranging from 15% to 60% has been levied on such exports. Between October 2000 and December 2000 exports of semi processed leather was 0.497 crores against a total export of Rs. 453.45 crores for finished leather during the same